

**Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Parris N. Glendening, Governor • Georges C. Benjamin, M.D., Secretary

October 26, 2001

Dear Maryland Pharmacist:

Since the September 11 disaster, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has been working with other State, local and federal agencies to refine and enhance our emergency preparedness capabilities. As part of this planning effort, we have identified the need to be able to dispense and distribute prescription drugs in large volumes during an emergency situation.

The purpose of this letter is to request you to volunteer your time in such an emergency. Pharmacist volunteers will be needed to distribute and/or dispense volumes of prescription drugs to large sites and/or large numbers of people very quickly. We may receive large volumes of medications from the national pharmaceutical stockpile, for instance, and would need trained volunteers to travel to designated sites to assist in distribution.

We are also seeking pharmacy technicians as volunteers. Please pass this letter on to pharmacy technicians with whom you work to enlist their support also.

If you would be willing to volunteer your time for this purpose, please fax the attached form to the Maryland State Board of Pharmacy at 410-358-9512. Any questions should be directed to Dr. Julie Casani, Medical Coordinator, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, at her e-mail address: jcasani@dnhmh.state.md.us.

Your cooperation during this difficult time is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Georges C. Benjamin, MD